

**17 Smith Avenue, Greenville, RI 02828**

**401-949-1480**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**January 20, 2011**

**9:30 AM**

**17 Smith Avenue, Greenville, RI 02828**

**Chair Eric Offenberg called the meeting to order at 9:40.**

**Present: Eric Offenberg, Chair; Ken Ayars, RI DEM; Phou Vongkhamdy, NRCS; Emerson Wildes, ERICD; Paul Dolan, NRICD; Harriet Powell, Clarkson Collins, SRICD; Dick Went, RIACD; Susan Korte, What Grows On in RI; Ramona LeBlanc, SCC.**

### **I. Minutes**

**A motion was made to accept the November 3, 2010 minutes as presented: Harriet/Paul: unanimous.**

### **II. Financial Reports**

**Half year review shows a few line items, particularly administrative assistant hours, are over budget.**

**A revised balanced budget will be developed and presented at the**

**next SCC meeting.**

**A motion was made to approve the financial report: Harriet/Paul: unanimous.**

### **III. Old Business:**

#### **A. FFOS:**

**New and recent enrollees to FFOS are being required to produce a current NRCS conservation plan or to pay SCC to develop one. Ag Techs will begin scheduling appointments for site visits.**

**When the process is operating smoothly, a review of existing FFOS enrollees will begin to ensure compliance.**

#### **B. NRCS Agreements:**

**1. Ag Inventory/ Biosecurity: Street surveys have been completed in Hopkinton, Richmond, South Kingstown, Smithfield, North Smithfield and Jamestown. Data entry work is underway. Agreement of NRCS's being reviewed for possible amendment to target nurseries and forest landowners for possible NRCS funding in towns covered under current contract.**

**2. Geese Abatement: One workshop for Municipal and Conservation Agencies is scheduled for February 2, 2011 and two public workshops designed to attract EQIP applications for eligible abatement practices are scheduled for January 31, 2011 and February 2, 2011 at ERICD office. The next phase of the project is to develop and train a team of Volunteers for the egg oiling. ERICD has made a**

**job offer to an applicant and, if hired, she will coordinate this component in cooperation with Doug.**

#### **IV. New Business:**

##### **A. New NRCS Agreement:**

**A new agreement is being developed that would fund the 2 Ag Techs to work at NRCS office to follow up on new NRCS contacts and existing NRCS contracts. Training will be provided. NRCS has \$26,000 available for this agreement.**

##### **B. MOU's with Districts:**

**The need for an MOU between the SCC and the Districts was discussed. As more programs are implemented the need to develop a protocol to ensure timelines and deadlines are met is apparent. A draft MOU will be developed for review/ comment b Conservation District Boards.**

##### **C. Legislative Update:**

**Eric would like to meet with Director Coit within the next few weeks to review recent accomplishments of the Conservation Districts and to get her guidance on next steps to be taken.**

**New environmental committees in the legislature will be researched and a list circulated to SCC members. Outreach to these legislative committee members will be undertaken.**

##### **D. Dues:**

**1. RIACD: The CD's previously each contributed \$500 annually to the**

**RIACD. Recognizing the value of the RIACD Presidents participation in NACD meetings, the SCC will contribute half that assessment for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Each District is asked to disc making a \$250 contribution at their next Board Meeting.**

**A motion was made that, for this fiscal year only, the SCC would contribute any unpaid balance: Paul/ Harriet, unanimous.**

**2. NCDEA: The potential benefit of membership in this organization will be researched and discussed at the next SCC meeting.**

**E. 2011 Meeting Schedule:**

**Dates were selected and will be emailed to all members.**

**V. Reports:**

**A. Chair: As the appointee of the former Governor, Eric will be actively seeking a replacement. However, he will continue to support SCC and will work with his replacement to ensure recent progress continues**

**B. Districts & Advisors**

**1. SRICD:**

**Work on Rivers Assessment agreement is complete. 40 +/- miles of the Pawcatuck were surveyed.**

**Doug continues to work on Geese Abatement Agreement.**

**A small amount of work remains to be completed on the Narragansett Stormwater Project.**

**Publicity brochures are being developed and will be distributed as municipal budgets are being considered.**

**A discussion on mapping services has been undertaken with a**

**private Land Trust.**

**2. ERICD:**

**A job has been offered to Jessica Blackledge.**

**Associate Director David Brown has resigned.**

**NRCS continues to use District office.**

**3. NRICD:**

**Work continues for the Providence Water Supply Board.**

**Survey portion of the Ag Inventory/ Biosecurity agreement has been completed.**

**Seedling sale will be held on April 22nd & 23rd 2011.**

**Seven (7) year lease for a DEM/Parks & Recreation building in Johnston has been signed and renovations have begun.**

**4. DEM:**

**There is a possible role for the CD's in a Land Trust Council grant to link conservation lands.**

**5. NRCS:**

**150 EQIP applications have been received to date.**

**It is expected that there will be \$250 thousand available for implementation of forestry practices.**

**NRCS is acting under a continuing resolution and the budget has not been confirmed.**

**Meeting adjourned at 11:00.**